

## **DDD Rate Review**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is conducting a Rate Review to take a closer look at what we pay for Medicaid-approved services and the method we use to pay it.

As we begin this process, it's most important to hear from YOU, the people using services, as well as family members and friends who are connected to the system of services and supports. To make this happen, we're providing the information below to share a basic description of what's going on, along with some details about how you can speak-up, ask questions and share your concerns, comments, and ideas.

We hope this information is useful, and look forward to connecting with you and hearing your feedback about this important work!

### **WHAT'S A RATE REVIEW AND WHO IS DOING IT?**

A rate review looks at services being provided, the way the supports are provided, and the amount of money paid for the support services. Examples of questions that may be asked are below:

- How was the rate set?
- Is the rate enough for agencies to provide the Person-Centered home and community services that Medicaid now requires? Is the method used to pay agencies efficient? Or does it make it harder for agencies to report the services they provide?
- How could the payments that agencies receive not only be based on the number of services provided, but also reflect the quality of the services that a person receives?
- Are there Alternative methods of paying providers that could be an option?

To answer these important types of questions requires a certain level of expertise and experience in this area. It's also helpful for the people who will be doing our rate review to be independent from our current system, which is why Rhode Island has hired an organization called NESCSO (New England States Consortium Systems Organization) to help us do this important work.

### **WHAT IS BEING REVIEWED?**

NESCSO will be initially focusing on 2 main areas as it conducts our Rate Review: the RATE of Day and Employment DD Services, and the WAY we pay it.

#### **THE AMOUNT:**

A Reimbursement Rate is the dollar amount that the state pays for DD Services. Rates vary, depending on the type of service and the level of support that a person requires. For example, people who have a higher tier-level may need more support, such as 1 staff member to 1 consumer, to be successful.

## **THE METHOD:**

Rhode Island currently uses a “Fee for Service” model to pay DD provider agencies in our state, which is another area that NESCSO will help us take a closer look at.

Every time your staff work with you, they’re providing a service that is connected to one of the goals in your individualized plan. Fee-for-Service means that your agency needs to keep track of everything that your staff does with you, so they can give that information to the Division, to get paid.

This is called a “Reimbursement” because your agency provides the services and pays for all of the service-related expenses, such as staff paychecks, mileage, and overhead. All these expenses are covered by Medicaid, so once an agency provides a service, the state uses Medicaid-approved funding to pay for these.

NESCSO will take all this information into account as part of their Rate Review. They will provide DDD with the feedback we need to help make decisions about the costs of DD Services. They will give us options for payment methods that will continue to support our move towards a system of individualized, Person-Centered supports.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

As we mentioned above, your feedback is very important! NESCSO will hold stakeholder meetings in the coming months to get your feedback. We will share information about these meetings here on our website, along with details about our upcoming DD Community Forums, and other opportunities where you can find out more about the Rate Review, ask questions, and share your own concerns, comments and ideas.

In addition, please feel free to share your input with us at any time by emailing us at: [BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov), or by calling the Division directly at 401.462.3421. Cindy Fusco is available to take your thoughts or ideas and share them with both leadership and the rate review team.